

Remarks

The Office Action of November 17, 2004 has been carefully reviewed by the undersigned attorney. The telephone interview held this date with Examiner Hunter and a Primary Examiner is gratefully acknowledged.

Amended Claim 27

Claim 27 has been amended to further recite a feature that the undersigned attorney thought was always in the claims, namely that there be only a single, extended and locked position for the singles stick. This has been further emphasized, however, by the insertion of the word "only" into claim 27 in front of the word "single" so that the claim now reads "only a single, predetermined, extended and locked position."

As pointed out in Appellant's Brief to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, claim 27 is directed to the ease of use provided by the Applicant's invention, namely to an extensible and collapsible singles stick having a fixed depth notch and a single, extended and locked position chosen with respect to this notch. In this invention, the user simply pulls the base and staff apart until the single, predetermined, extended and locked position is reached and the user knows the stick will have just the right height when the top support cord or cable rests within the notch to position the net for singles play. There is no need to measure or to figure out which of multiple locking holes to use.

The Examiners appeared to agree that this would distinguish over Lindskog and that claim 27 would appear to be allowable if no other relevant prior art were found.

New Claim 35

In this invention, the base of the singles stick is a tubular member with an enlarged planar bottom foot placed only on the bottom of the base. There are no ground engaging, vertically extending support legs attached to the base. This ensures simplicity and low cost in the Applicant's device. It also ensures proper placement of the singles stick against the net since there are no legs to interfere with such placement.

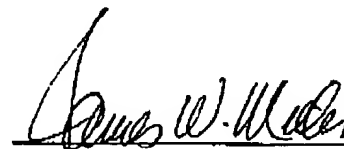
Lindskog's device clearly has ground engaging legs 6 attached to the base. Consequently, new claim 35 additionally defines around Lindskog.

Summary

All of the claims remaining in this application are believed to clearly define over the prior art of record. Accordingly, prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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